



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

Hand-Built Pottery Demonstrated by Wyman Rice at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

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BEREA, Ky. — On Saturday, June 2, Wyman Rice, of Lexington, will create hand-built pottery from slabs and coils of clay from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Rice grew up on a farm in Adair County near Columbia, and began to draw at a very early age. While art instruction was not offered in his elementary or high school, he continued to teach himself how to draw and paint. It was in college that Rice was first able to take art courses. He attended the University of Louisville, and then the University of Kentucky, where his interest in ceramics was fueled by seeing sculptural contemporary clay work. After two years of studio work in clay at the University of Kentucky, Rice began his 26-year clay career.

Rice produces work without a potter's wheel, constructing them one at a time using slabs or coils of clay. The clay is rolled out into sheets, allowed to stiffen, and joined together to create unique and organic forms. Rice also builds with coils of clay, shaping and finishing each form by hand.

Looking to nature and the human figure for inspiration, Rice fires all of his work using the Raku firing process. This process requires the pottery to be glazed and fired very quickly, removed immediately from the kiln while red hot, and either plunged into water, or placed into combustible materials, such as sawdust or shredded newspaper. These burning materials transfer carbon onto the surfaces of the pottery and affect the final color of both the glaze and clay as it rapidly cools. The Raku firing process creates finished surfaces that can be quite colorful, with the clay itself becoming a charcoal gray or black.

Works by Rice are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate -75 at Berea exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the cafe open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 650 artisans from 100 counties across the Commonwealth, with a special exhibition, "About Face: Kentucky Artisan Works Inspired by the Human Face," through Aug. 26. For information call 859-985-5448 or visit the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Wyman Rice creates pottery from coils of clay